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PROGRAMME PLANNING

Country and intercountry programmes and projects

EXTENSION OF THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Note by the Administrator

1. The fourth country programme for Papua New Guinea was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-third session (1986). The three main priority sectors identified in the programme for technical cooperation between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) were: (a) agriculture, forestry and fisheries; (b) general development policy and planning (including manpower development and training, strengthening of financial management and project preparation for pre-investment studies); and (c) industry. During the course of implementation, improvement of the public sector - category (b) - emerged as the dominant theme, as a result of a need for improvement of public sector planning, policy formulation and management capability in Government departments. This need was highlighted and reconfirmed by the adoption in 1990 of a structural adjustment programme.

2. An excellent start made with long-term policy changes called for by the adjustment package has created a good basis for a national development programme aimed at improving the quality of life of the population. It is in this context that the Government has requested UNDP to organize a comprehensive employment strategy and human resource development mission, which is expected to visit the country in the middle of 1992. The Government considers that an important part of the fifth country programme should be based on the mission's report.

3. In 1989, the Government and UNDP signed a memorandum of understanding calling upon UNDP to play a lead agency role with respect to: (a) public sector management; (b) non-governmental organizations (NGOs); (c) women in development; and (d) technical assistance management. Sectoral studies were undertaken in 1991 with respect to the second and third of these areas of focus, and formulation work is expected in the other two areas of concentration in preparation for the next country programme. This is likely to be supplemented in 1992 by a review of technical assistance currently being discussed by the Government, the World Bank and UNDP. The Government also wishes the result of this exercise to be taken into account in the fifth country programme.

4. For the above-mentioned reasons, the Government has requested an extension of the fourth country programme. The Government expects to submit the fifth country programme to the Governing Council in February 1993.

5. The Administrator wishes to inform the Governing Council that he has approved the extension of the fourth country programme for Papua New Guinea for a period of one year, beginning 1 January 1992.